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Engineering Note

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Subject: Aldec Active-HDL installation instructions

What is Active-HDL?

Active-HDL is a VHDL simulation tool. It allows a designer to write and simulate VHDL code functionally (before synthesis – testing the code itself) and it can also run timing simulations (tests the design after synthesis, and after the place and route tools have introduced finite delays). Active-HDL supports VHDL testbenches, which are great for sending thousands of test vectors through a large design. Unlike the basic gate-level simulators bundled with Altera, Lattice, and Xilinx, Active-HDL allows the firmware designer to probe deep into a large hierarchical design and see contents of registers and busses. Other useful features include setting breakpoints and watch variables and single-stepping through the design. We currently have four floating licenses for Active-HDL Plus Edition – VHDL only, single vendor (Xilinx) support.

Before you install Active-HDL software on your NT workstation make sure the following conditions are met:

- **Your OS is Windows 2000 Professional.**

- **You're logged into an FNAL domain NT account.**

- **You have administrator privileges on your PC for that FNAL account.**

1. If you have a previous version of Active-HDL on your PC, uninstall it prior to installing the new version. Uninstalling your old copy shouldn't affect your project files, but it would be a good idea to archive them just to be safe.

2. Go to the directory **\\ppdserver\EED.PPD\Project\ESCAD\Install Area\Aldec**

3. Go to the newest **AldecHDL_Vxx** directory

4. If you can't see the directories listed above, or if it asks you for a password then you need to be added to PPD/EED group to access these applications. Send email to ppdhelpdesk@fnal.gov and include your FNAL domain username and tell them that you need to install Active-HDL software. (Alternatively, you can contact Al Forni x8052)

5. Run M**setup.exe**. The installation is fairly straightforward, with a couple of exceptions listed in the following steps:

6. For Setup Type choose **VHDL**

7. For Vendor Library chose **Xilinx**

8. Select the vendor libraries you need (Virtex, SpartanII, etc.)

9. For the "Choose License Type" window select **Network Floating License**

10. After the installation completes you'll need to change the System Environment Variable "ACTIVE*xx*_LICENSE_FILE" to point to "2300@acme". (*xx* is the ActiveHDL revision number, i.e. 52) Go to Control Panel, System, Advanced Tab, Environment Variables.

11. Depending on the version you installed, you may need to install the latest service pack. Look around in the **\\ppdserver\EED.PPD\Project\ESCAD\Install Area\Aldec** directory. Find the directory containing the latest service pack pertaining to the version of the ActiveHDL you just installed. There will be a readme.txt file in that directory with specific instructions on how to install it.

Other Stuff:

- We have four floating licenses for this software. If you're not going to be using the software for a couple of hours, save your work and exit the program so someone else can use it.

- If you have problems with the software, go to the Aldec website at http://www.aldec.com/ they have a fairly decent knowledge base in the support section.

- If you find a new service pack on the Aldec website tell Tom Wesson about it so he can put it up on **ppdserver**. Tom can be e-mailed at twesson@fnal.gov